CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the background of the study and formulation of the problem will be explored to provide insight into the context and urgency of the issue under study. Following this, operational definitions will be established to construct a conceptual framework for the research theories. Additionally, the aim of the research and its significance will be discussed, thus clarifying the research objectives and the benefits derived from this study

1.1   Background of the Study

Speaking is one of four macro skills that must be developed to communicate in an EFL learning environment effectively. Therefore, speaking is accepted as an important subject in various professions, including EFL. Because of this capacity, they can be imaginative and creative while talking with others to attain specific goals. This skill is required for language learning and understanding (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2020). It is used in verbal remarks to express concepts. It consists of a series of spoken sentences that convey meaning and is utilized as a human contact for connecting with people (Wulandari & Ashadi, 2021). It has evolved into a vital component of everyday speech since a person's skill to speak clearly and fluently is largely dependent on their first impression. Speaking includes communicative performance, grammar, intonation, pronunciation, vocabulary, and so on (Afrilliani et al., 2020). Considering the importance of speaking skills in EFL programs, it is critical to identify and implement the optimal instructional methods, resources, activities, media, and other requirements to help learners master speaking skills.

The learning strategies used greatly influence the achievement of speaking skills in learning English. Appropriate and effective learning strategies for teaching speaking skills will make learning outcomes more optimal (Kalimaliasari & Ameizal, 2021). However, one of the main problems in learning a foreign language

is preparing students to be able to use the foreign language. The extent to which preparation is carried out and success can be achieved depends on how the teaching staff or teachers understand the goals to be achieved (Bygate, 1987).

Many schools require the students to communicate in English at least once a week or on a specific day; some even make it the primary language in the school environment as a strategy (Burns & Claire, 2003). Islamic Boarding School (IBS) education is an educational institution that provides a much greater portion of religious learning than general subject learning (Sarnoto, 2022). In modern Islamic boarding schools, the focus is not only on religious knowledge-based learning but also on general lessons such as in schools in general (Budianto, 2023). Furthermore, there are many modern IBSs based intensively in Arabic and English, in which programs support language development, such as language zones, using compulsory languages Arabic and English for daily communication, morning conversation, night vocabulary addition, and *Muhadhoroh*. *Muhadhoroh* is used as a strategy to improve speaking skills and it included into extracurricular (Budianto, 2023). *Muhadhoroh* is easily adapted to the situation, conditions, and time available if the writer's limited material time can be shortened, and vice versa if the time allows as much as possible and more profound material can be delivered. *Muhadhoroh* is a talent development exercise for IBS students. Students are encouraged to participate in this activity by doing various types of performances either individually or in groups. The performances presented in *Muhadhoroh* activities take various forms, ranging from speeches, poetry, drama, dance, and so on. The language utilized in the *Muhadhoroh* event is frequently foreign, such as English or Arabic. This regulation was implemented to help students in IBSs enhance their language skills. This activity, besides enhancing language abilities, serves as a venue for student amusement and self-confidence development because students are obliged to perform in front of large crowds.

Based on previous studies, there have been many studies about *Muhadhoroh* as a strategy for English-learning speaking skills. Umyun et al. (2023) investigate the correlation between *Muhadhoroh* training and students' public speaking at an IBS and their strategies for overcoming it by conducting observation

and questionnaires. According to the study by Umyun et al. (2023), *Muhadhoroh* training and students' English public speaking have a significant correlation. It implies that students who have more *Muhadhoroh* will have better English in public speaking. Moreover, Dewi et al. (2023) investigated students' speaking skills through *Muhadhoroh* activities, their strategies through a questionnaire, and their methods, both descriptive and qualitative. The result of the study shows that *Muhadhoroh* is an activity that can improve students' speaking skills, especially in public speaking, because in *Muhadhoroh*, students will practice delivering a speech in front of an audience. As the previous studies have investigated the correlation between speaking *Muhadhoroh* and the strategies applied, this study explored the Significance and drawbacks of the *Muhadhoroh* program for students in the context of their speaking skills.

1.2   Formulation of the Problem

A research question addressed in the present study is "What are the Significances and drawbacks of the *Muhadhoroh* program for students in the context of their speaking skills?"

1.3   Operational Definitions
1.3.1   English Speaking Skills

Speaking skill refers to the ability to communicate effectively using spoken language. It involves expressing thoughts, ideas, and information clearly and confidently while also being able to listen to and understand others. *Muhadhoroh* provides students with the opportunity to practice speaking using structured language, which not only trains their verbal skills but also other important aspects such as vocabulary mastery and correct pronunciation, as well as the use of facial expressions and body language that support the message being conveyed.

1.3.2   *Muhadhoroh* Program

Muhadhoroh refers to activities that involve speech exercises or public lectures, designed to develop students' speaking abilities and their skill in

processing language effectively. In addition, the *Muhadhoroh* program has notable shortcomings, such as students' lack of motivation to participate in the activities actively. Moreover, external factors also play a significant role, particularly the limited competence of program organizers in effectively carrying out their responsibilities. This study seeks to examine both the significances and drawbacks of the *Muhadhoroh* program for enhancing English-speaking skills. As an engaging extracurricular activity conducted outside regular school hours, *Muhadhoroh* not only excites students but also helps them better comprehend the material presented, making the learning process both enjoyable and effective.

1.3.3   Significances and Drawbacks

Significances refer to the positive impacts or benefits of a program, highlighting its value and contributions to achieving specific goals. In the context of the *Muhadhoroh* program, significances include improvements in students' speaking skills, confidence, and critical thinking. Drawbacks, on the other hand, are the limitations or negative aspects that hinder a program's effectiveness. For *Muhadhoroh*, these include low student motivation, inadequate facilities, and issues with management or program delivery.

1.4   Aim of the Research

The study aims to investigate the significances and drawbacks of the *Muhadhoroh* program for students in the context of their speaking skills.

1.5   Significances of the Study
1.5.1   Theoretical Significance

This study contributes to existing theories about speaking skills strategies by using the *Muhadhoroh* program as an effective medium and also a brief discussion of the *Muhadhoroh* program.

1.5.2   Practical Significance

The present study contributes to the English language teachers' concern with the *Muhadhoroh* program as an effective medium for developing speaking

skills. The use of the *Muhadhoroh* program as an alternative medium shows the importance of speaking skills in language. The *Muhadhoroh* program allows teachers and students to develop their speaking level.

1.5.3 Empirical Significance

This study reviewed the previous studies' research on the correlation between *Muhadhoroh* training and student public speaking. However, this issue is often studied by many researchers. Thus, this study aims to investigate the Significance and drawbacks of *Muhadhoroh* in more significant areas of speaking skills.